

**Adolescent Literacy Conference**  
***Making It “REAL” for TEENS: Continuing the Quest to Increase Adolescent Literacy Acquisition***

June 8-9, 2009

Technology Solutions – Post Conference – June 10, 2009

Marian College

Indianapolis, Indiana

Progress has been made in the literacy acquisition of adolescents who attend Indiana’s secondary schools, but more is needed. Indiana faces the same challenge as many other states, striving to improve the education levels of its workforce. Academic intervention programs and dropout intervention programs which offer higher-level thinking, collaboration, and global literacy curriculum are necessary to equip Indiana students with the skills needed to compete in the new economy.

Facts:

1. One-fourth of Indiana students who enter high school do not graduate
2. 27% of Indiana’s eighth-graders scored below the NAEP basic reading level
3. 960,000 to 1.23 million employed Hoosiers have literacy skills below the minimum standard for successful employment in the knowledge-based economy
4. Less than one- third of 13-year-olds are daily readers
5. Americans 15-24 years of age spend two hours watching TV and 7 minutes on leisure reading each day
6. Two-thirds of employers rank reading comprehension very important for high school graduates

Neglecting students’ literacy has serious economic consequences for the individual and states. Deficits in basic skills cost the nation’s businesses; universities and under-prepared high school graduate as much as 1.6 billion dollars annually in lost productivity and remedial costs. (Snow, 2004)

Five years ago, concerned secondary educators gathered together to brainstorm approaches which might increase literacy acquisition of adolescents. The Adolescent Literacy Conference was developed and has grown from a group of 40 participants, taught by Indiana practitioners, to an anticipated 350 educators this year at Marian College.

Cathedral High School, The Forte Education Group, and Marian College are honored to present the thinking and teaching of the following educators: Kelly Gallagher, Jim Burke, Stephen Layne, Carol Jago and Indiana educators. The conference will be held on the campus of Marian College. Sponsors and in-kind contributions assist in keeping the costs down so all who wish to attend can do so economically. One- and three-hour graduate credits are available. Each attendee will receive a certificate for hours of professional development.

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Registration: [www.cathedral-irish.org/pagecfm?=1577](http://www.cathedral-irish.org/pagecfm?=1577)

